



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Present: Commission Co-chairs Susan Ryan-Vollmar and Lisa Krinsky; Commissioners Molly Gillis, Kari Sasportis, Helene Newberg, Andy Robinson

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey, Arlington (DEI), Julie Flaherty (APD), Len Diggins (Select Board)

Guests: Tim Ross and Teresa Marzilli – DEI, Commissioners Candidates: Kym Goldsmith and Paloma Cotton-Herman

### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

1. Review of remote Participation Guidelines
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and approval of August 2022 Minutes
  - a. Tabled until October meeting
4. Commission Membership
  - a. Introduction of 2 new Commissioners -Kym Goldsmith awaiting School Committee approval; Paloma Cotton-Herman awaiting Select Board approval.
5. Working Group Updates
  - a. Education – Molly Gillis continues working on Rainbow Taskforce for APS with Asst. Superintendent Rod MacNeal. Will host more community meetings, like those done in past school year. Jeff Perotti will do Safe Schools training across

the school system. Addressing data issues for school surveys to better capture LGBTQIA+ identities. Also staying on top of school bathrooms, including new AHS building.

- b. Community Engagement – Town Day September 17th. All Commissioners encouraged to participate. Rainbow Commission picnic at Robbins Farm on Sat Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Co-sponsored Starlight Sq event took place on Sep 10. Arlington Heights window painting for Fall in early October- Signing up for 4 windows with APS student groups.
- c. Communications – Meredith Goldstein doing Globe article on polyamorous relationships, Susan directing her to Amos Meeks who led Arlington DP initiative.
- d. Town Systems & Policies – Jill submitted HRC MEI at end of July after meeting with Legal to identify additional areas to build on what we've already achieved.
- e. Budget – Started FY with \$4K budget. Graviton Fitness donated \$200. Modest spending planned for Town Day.

## 6. Liaison Updates

- a. Council on Aging (COA) – Marci is finalizing multi-generational SAGE Table date for Thurs Nov 10 at 6pm at new Community Center. Will try to get GSA/QSA and school Rainbow groups to attend as well. October 27, afternoon All ages Halloween party for at Community Center.
- b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) – Tim Ross is the new ADA coordinator. Racial equity workshops for town employees being planned. Meeting with Dept heads next week to coordinate and drive leadership buy-in and flow down to their teams. 4 phases of workshops, each being offered 4 times to ensure everyone has opportunity to attend. Collaborative group plan for equity work in town. Teresa is working with MAPC to do language access program to develop best practice guide. Working with other municipalities to help define language needs for the communities and identify best practices. Also doing roundtable meetings around different related topics. Starting with 9/22 meeting on procurement. Had interfaith clergy luncheon today with town employees engaged in DEI work. MLK committee is actively seeking new participants to be involved in planning. Currently have 6 folks in place but need more help. Meeting on 9/29. Jill will send notice to all commissions.
- c. Arlington Police Department (APD) – Been working with Jill to schedule racial equity workshops. Every APD employee will be participating in it. APD has 68 officers budgeted, but 62 on the force. Currently have 10 female police officers. All attending Women in Law Enforcement conference next month. Also working with schools to plan workshops to engage police officers with children of color to improve relations. Had planned an event to teach community how to use Narcan but had to cancel due to COVID. Being rescheduled.
- d. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson – Susan connected with Em from GSA, who said they haven't yet met, but hope to have someone at next month's meeting. Kym shared insight on Gibbs and OMS QSA contacts – Lisa Lambert, Gibbs science teacher – [llamber@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:llamber@arlington.k12.ma.us) and Nanci Siegel, OMS school counselor – [nsiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:nsiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us). Kym asked if there's an existing structure on how to raise issues of harassment in schools. Human

Rights Commission has a working group. Jill is trying to meet with the working group to determine a better communication stream and processes for how to report or file an incident. Kym heard stories of kids being harassed or mistreated, but not knowing how they can report issues. Also need for some training for some kids on unacceptable anti-LGBTQIA+ behaviors. Referred to Molly to incorporate into APS efforts. Lisa suggested holding an open forum with the RC and local students to hear their perspectives.

- e. Library – Not present.
  - f. Select Board – No updates. Focused on Town Day and heavily involved in the planning.
7. Public Engagement and Open Commentary – none.
8. Close Meeting: SRV moved to adjourn, AR second.

Next Meeting. **Thursday October 20, 2022.**

**LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission**  
**Consent Agenda: August -September 2022**

- 1. August 2022 Meeting minutes
- 2. August 22 – inquiry from Graviton Fitness regarding receipt of donation
- 3. August 25– Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition 25th LGBTQ+ Dance October 22nd
- 4. August 30 – Wellness with Pride: COVID 19 and the LGBTQ+ Community study
- 5. September 2 - Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition 25th LGBTQ+ Dance October 22nd
- 6. September 8 -Lonely Seal Film Festival at Regent Theatre October 8; Block 12 LGBTQ+ films
- 7. September 9 – Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition Webinar: Cell Phones and Cancer September 12th